

R E M A R K S

The Examiner has objected to the length of the Abstract. Appropriate amendment has been made.

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly obvious over the article "Mom's Blankets Cover Life in Army" (Sanders). Claims 1-7 and 9-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,272,689 (Kronenberger). Claims 15-25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,675,512, to Schwartz et al (Schwartz).

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-25 is requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the appearance of the articles is changed from the first appearance before selling the article with the first appearance to a consumer. The further step of selling to a consumer is recited, with the article sold to the consumer having been already changed from having the first appearance to having the second appearance.

Claim 1 is directed overall to a method whereby articles are stocked for purchase by consumers. For example, the environment may be a championship event whereat one of two entities will be "crowned" champion. The article with the first appearance may identify the participant A as the champion, with the article having a second appearance identifying participant B as the champion. If A is favored, the articles may be stocked with all or a majority of them having the first appearance. If participant B ultimately prevails, the purveyor has the opportunity to change the article from the first

appearance to the second appearance and thereafter sell the article with the second appearance that appropriately identifies the prevailing participant B.

Sanders discloses nothing more than taking an old patch off and replacing it with a new patch on a military item. Sanders does not teach or suggest a flexible marketing/sales method as set forth in claim 1.

Kronenberger discloses a completely different concept than is claimed. Kronenberger makes available two different types of adornment. Rather than attaching one in anticipation of demand, the appropriate adornment is placed on as demand dictates. There is no teaching or suggestion that either adornment be removed and replaced by the other. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed allowable.

Claims 2-14 depend from claim 1 and recite further significant limitations to further distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 15 recites the combination of an article of clothing and first and second adornment layers that can be interchangeably fixedly attached, one in place of the other. The first adornment layer is fixedly attached through tack-stitched thread.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has read beyond the teachings of Schwartz in rejecting claim 15 and its dependent claims. On page 6 of the Action, the Examiner states "[w]hen the adornment part 20 is replaced, then the adornment 11 is removed from the cap and the extensions are straightened and the second different adornment 20 is replaced with extensions re-bent. The adornment 11 is then stitched in place again".

It is respectfully submitted that the concept set forth by the Examiner is arrived at by viewing Applicant's disclosure and applying the same to Schwartz. Schwartz does

not teach or suggest removing the adornment 11 and replacing the adornment component 20 as set forth by the Examiner.

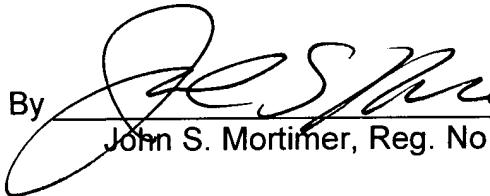
Claim 21 recites a headwear piece with adornment maintained thereon by tack-stitched thread. The art cited does not teach or suggest this.

Accordingly, claim 15 is believed allowable.

Claims 16-25 depend cognately from one of claims 15 and 21 and recite further significant structural detail to further distinguish over Schwartz.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-25 and allowance of the case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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